

Docket: T2316-907194

#9/Suppl
Response
1/10/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : VIA FAX: 703-872-9310
STUDHOLME et al. :
Serial No.: 09/849,240 : Examiner: Patricia Hightower
Filed: May 7, 2001 : Group Art Unit: 1711
For: Process for Preparing Polymeric Fibers Based :
On Blends of Two or More Polymers :

McLean, Virginia
January 2, 2003

OFFICIAL

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION
(RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT)

FAX RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 03 2003

GROUP 1700

Sir:

Further to the response filed December 18, 2002, Applicant notes that the passage quoted from MPEP §803, i.e., that "[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (MPEP §803, emphasis added).

Applicant recently received the "Written Opinion" mailed in connection with the corresponding PCT application, No. PCT/US01/49386. That Written Opinion contains an initial examination on the merits of all of Claims 1-104. In addition, the International Search Report was directed to all 104 claims.

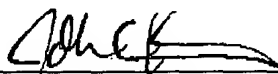
Since all of Claims 1-104 have been searched and examined in the corresponding PCT application, there is no serious burden presented in examining this

same set of claims in the U.S. application. In the absence of a serious burden, the MPEP instructs that the *entire* application must be examined.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and the election of species requirement are merited, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE P.C.

By: 
John C. Kerins
Reg. No. 32,421

1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
Telephone: (703) 610-8649
#9182509v1